

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A distribution content creating apparatus comprising:

content storage means for storing content bodies ;

5 distribution content creating means for creating a distribution content by reading a content body from said content storage means and providing the content body with a use condition; and

content storage means for storing the distribution content created by said distribution content creating means,

10 wherein

said distribution content creating means includes management data editing means for editing management data indicating the use condition effective to a specific section of the read content body, and

15 said distribution content creating means creates the distribution content by providing the content body with at least one piece of management data edited by the management data editing means.

2. The distribution content creating apparatus according to claim 1, wherein

the use condition indicated by said management data prohibits use of the section specified by the management data,

5 allows the use of the section specified by the management data for free, or allows the use of the section specified by the management data in return for payment of a predetermined fee.

3. The distribution content creating apparatus according to claim 1, wherein

said management data further indicates a replay order of the section specified by the management data.

4. The distribution content creating apparatus according to claim 1, wherein

5 said distribution content creating means creates the distribution content by further providing the content body with a plurality of pieces of management track data, and

each piece of management track data defines a collection of at least one piece of said management data indicating at least one section used for a predetermined purpose as one management track corresponding to the purpose.

5. The distribution content creating apparatus according to claim 4, further comprising:

character input means for supplying a character input;  
and

5 GUI input means for supplying a GUI input, wherein  
said management data editing means makes a GUI screen

displayed, the GUI screen including a plurality of management tracks provided along a time axis,

said management data editing means edits the management data of the specific section by receiving, through said character input means, a start time and an end time for defining the specific section of said content body on the time axis, and the use condition for the predetermined purpose, and

said management data editing means places, based on the edited management data, a bar on the management track corresponding to the purposes in said GUI screen.

6. The distribution content creating apparatus according to claim 5, wherein

said distribution content creating means further includes management data storage means for storing the management data edited by said management data editing means.

7. The distribution content creating apparatus according to claim 6, wherein

said management data editing means reads the management data previously edited from said management data storage means, and places, based on the read management data, a bar on the management track in said GUI screen, and

said management data editing means edits the management data by moving one end and/or the other end of the bar along the

time axis through an operation by said GUI input means.

8. The distribution content creating apparatus according to claim 4, wherein

said distribution content creating means further includes replay means for reading the distribution content from  
5 said distribution content storage means and replaying, based on said management data, the specific section of the said content body.

9. The distribution content creating apparatus according to claim 8, wherein

said replay means selects one of the plurality of pieces of management track data included in the read distribution content  
5 and, based on at least one piece of the management data included in the management track defined by the management track data, and replays at least one specific section of said content body.

10. A method of creating a distribution content including a content body provided with a use condition, said method comprising:

a step of storing content bodies;

5 a step of creating a distribution content by reading a content body stored in said content body storing step and providing the content body with the use condition; and

a step of storing the distribution content created in  
said distribution content creating step, wherein

10           in said distribution content creating step,  
             management data indicating the use condition for a  
specific section of the content body is edited, and  
             the distribution content is created by providing the  
content body with at least one piece of the edited management data.

11. A content distribution system comprising:

a distribution content creating apparatus for creating  
a distribution content including a content body provided with a  
use condition;

5           a distributing apparatus for distributing the  
distribution content created by said distribution content  
creating apparatus; and

a terminal for receiving and using the distribution  
content distributed by said distributing apparatus, wherein

10           said distribution content creating apparatus includes:

content storage means for storing content bodies;

distribution content creating means for creating  
the distribution content by reading a content body from said  
content storage means and providing the content body with the use

15           condition; and

first distribution content storage means for  
storing the distribution content created by said distribution

content creating means,

10 said distribution content creating means includes  
20 management data editing means for editing management data  
indicating the use condition for a specific section of the content  
body,

25 said distribution content creating means creates the  
distribution content by providing the content body with at least  
one piece of the management data edited by the management data  
editing means, and

said terminal includes

receiving means for receiving the distribution  
content distributed by said distributing apparatus;

30 second distribution content storage means for  
storing the distribution content received by said receiving  
means; and

replay means for reading the distribution content  
from said second distribution content storage means, and  
35 replaying, based on said management data, the specific section  
of said content body.

12. A terminal for receiving and using a distribution  
content including a content body, and management data indicating  
a use condition for a specific section of the content body, said  
terminal comprising:

5 receiving means for receiving said distribution

content;

distribution content storage means for storing the distribution content received by said receiving means; and

replay means for reading the distribution content from  
10 said distribution content storage means, and replaying, based on said management data, the specific section of said content body.

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13. The terminal according to claim 12, wherein  
the use condition indicated by said management data prohibits use of the section specified by the management data, allows the use of the section specified by the management data  
5 for free, or allows the use of the section specified by the management data in return for payment of a predetermined fee, said terminal further comprises billing means for billing based on said management data, and

when the use condition allows the use of the section  
10 for free, said replay means replays the section, and when the use condition allows the use of the section in return for payment of the predetermined fee, the replay means replays the section after said billing means charges the fee.

14. The terminal according to claim 12, wherein  
said management data further indicates a replay order of the section specified by the management data, and  
said replay means replays at least one section

5 specified by the management data in the replay order indicated by the management data.

15. The terminal according to claim 12, wherein  
said distribution content further includes a plurality  
of pieces of management track data defining a collection of at  
least one piece of said management data indicating at least one  
5 section used for a predetermined purpose as one management track  
corresponding to the purpose, and

said replay means selects one of the plurality of pieces  
of management track data included in the read distribution content  
and, based on at least one piece of the management data included  
10 in the management track defined by the management track data,  
replays at least one specific section of said content body.

16. A distribution content comprising:  
a content body; and  
at least one piece of management data, wherein  
said management data indicates a use condition for a  
5 specific section of said content body

17. The distribution content according to claim 16,  
wherein

the use condition indicated by said management data  
prohibits use of the section specified by the management data,



5 allows the use of the section specified by the management data for free, or allows the use of the section specified by the management data in return for payment of a predetermined fee.

18. The distribution content according to claim 16, wherein

said management data further indicates a replay order of the section specified by the management data.

19. The distribution content according to claim 16, further comprising

a plurality of pieces of management track data, wherein

each piece of management track data defines a

5 collection of at least one piece of said management data indicating at least one section used for a predetermined purpose as one management track corresponding to the purpose.